

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~ Stiff packet with a hinged lid for cigarettes,
wherein said packet comprises a containing body closed at the top by a lid hinged on the
containing body and said lid is rotationally movable between a closed position and an open
position, and wherein said packet is delimited by a wall arrangement comprising a substantially
flat front wall, a substantially flat rear wall and a pair of shaped side walls that protrudes towards
the exterior of said container, each shaped side wall being connected to said front wall along a
first edge, and to said rear wall along a second edge, each shaped side wall comprising an outer
shaped panel attached to an inner shaped panel, said container comprising wherein said packet
comprises a stiffening element arranged to stiffen said shaped side walls, wherein said stiffening
element comprises a substantially flat stiffening wall extending between from said first edge
[[and]]to said second edge, said stiffening element being [[and]]spaced from the corresponding
shaped side wall and having a length substantially the same as a longitudinal dimension of said
shaped side wall, said length and said longitudinal dimension being measured parallel to said
first edge, such that said front wall, said rear wall and said stiffening walls define an empty
space which corresponds to the shape of a composition of cigarettes to be introduced inside the
packet and said packet further comprises a gap between each shaped side wall and its
corresponding stiffening wall.

Claims 37-38. (Canceled).

39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim ~~[[39]]~~36, and furthermore comprising an anchoring element arranged to anchor said stiffening wall to supporting wall adjacent to said shaped side wall.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 40, wherein said anchoring element comprises an anchoring wall adjacent to said shaped side wall.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall has a longitudinal extent measured parallel to said first edge substantially the same as said length of said stiffening wall.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall has a substantially flat shape and is fixed to a flat portion of said supporting wall.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall is glued to said supporting wall.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 41, wherein said anchoring wall is rotated by approximately 90° in relation to said stiffening wall.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 71, wherein each shaped side wall comprises a convex wall.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 71, wherein said convex portion comprises a portion of cylindrical surface.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 47, wherein said portion of cylindrical surface comprises a semicylindrical surface that extends around an axis substantially passing through said stiffening wall.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to claim 36, wherein each shaped side wall comprises a first flat wall and a second flat wall that intersect each other along a common edge.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Packet according to ~~one of~~ claim 71, wherein said shaped side wall comprises a substantially flat intermediate portion and convex peripheral portions.

Claims 51-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) Foldable blank for forming a ~~container~~hinged-lid packet of cigarettes, comprising a first greater panel, a second greater panel, external panels provided at opposite sides of said second greater panel, a longitudinal panel and a further longitudinal panel respectively arranged on opposite sides of said first greater panel parallel to said first greater panel, a pair of longitudinal strips each having a longitudinal side in common respectively with said longitudinal panel or with said further longitudinal panel, wherein said longitudinal panel and said further longitudinal panel are each subdivided into a first zone having a side in common with said first greater panel and a second zone having a side in common with the corresponding longitudinal strip, a first longitudinal crease separating said first zone from said second zone, a second longitudinal crease separating said longitudinal strip from said second zone, wherein said first zone has a transverse extend and said second zone has a further transverse extend measured perpendicular to an axis along which said longitudinal panel extends and wherein said first greater panel is interposed between a first transverse panel and a second transverse panel lying on opposite sides of said first greater panel along said longitudinal axis and wherein said first transverse panel and said second transverse panel extend parallel to said axis by a quantity substantially corresponding to said further transverse extend of said second zone.

55. (Currently Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said transverse extent of said first zone has a transverse extent greater than [[a]]said further transverse extent of said second zone, ~~said transverse extent and said further transverse extent being measured perpendicular to an axis along which said longitudinal panel extends.~~

Claims 56-58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone extends parallel to said first longitudinal crease for a length substantially the same as a ~~further~~the length of said greater panel along said first longitudinal crease.

60. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said longitudinal crease is substantially parallel to said first longitudinal crease.

61. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 60, wherein said longitudinal strip has a longitudinal extent measured parallel to said second longitudinal crease substantially equal to said length of said second zone.

62. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said longitudinal strip is trapezium-shaped, said second longitudinal crease defining a larger base of said trapezium.

63. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone is provided with a cutting line that extends through said first zone in a tilted direction in relation to said first longitudinal crease.

64. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 63, wherein said second zone is provided with a further cutting line that extends through said second zone in a direction

tilted in a specular manner in relation to said cutting line with respect to said first longitudinal crease.

65. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 64, wherein said cutting line and said further cutting line are provided with joints.

66. (Previously Amended) Foldable blank according to claim 54, wherein said first zone is provided with a plurality of creases parallel to one another arranged to give said first zone a certain yieldability, such that said first zone may take on a concave configuration when folded.

67. (Previously Presented) Foldable blank according to claim 66, wherein said first zone is provided with a first bundle of multiple creases and a second bundle of multiple creases arranged at the borders of a central region without creases.

Claims 68-70. (Canceled).

71. (Currently Amended) ~~Container-Packet~~ according to claim 36, wherein each shaped side wall comprises at least a convex portion.

72. (Canceled).

73. (New) Container delimited by a wall arrangement comprising a front wall, a rear wall and a pair of side walls, each side wall being connected to said front wall along a first edge, and to said rear wall along a second edge, each side wall comprising an outer panel attached to an inner panel, said container comprising a stiffening element arranged to stiffen said side walls, wherein said stiffening element comprises a substantially flat stiffening wall spaced from the corresponding side wall, said stiffening wall having a first end positioned at the first edge and a second end positioned at the second edge.

74. (New) Container according to claim 73, wherein said stiffening wall has a length substantially the same as a longitudinal dimension of said side wall, said length and said longitudinal dimension being measured parallel to said first edge.

75. (New) Container according to claim 73, further comprising a lid hinged to the rear wall.

76. (New) Container according to claim 73, further comprising an empty space, for contents of the container, defined by the front wall, rear wall and stiffening elements.

77. (New) Container according to claim 76, further comprising a gap between each side wall and the stiffening element, the gap being substantially symmetrical about a horizontal plane extending from one said gap to another said gap.

78. (New) Container according to claim 76, wherein the first and second edges correspond to the lateral extremes of the empty space.